

Algona High School

Edited by: Logan Thill and Taylor Prothman

December 12, 2010

## FIRE!

John Krause

Thursday night, December 2nd, a small fire broke out in the new middle school building. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

A small area, approximately 8X10 on the east side of the new gym between the boys and girls locker rooms, was affected by the fire. A small suspended ceiling of the same dimension was destroyed in the fire.

The fire was extinguished by the building's sprinkler system. The custodial staff immediately began to set up fans and clear the smoke from the building. No smoke damage was noticed on Friday.

The most significant damage was from the sprinkler system. An area of about 20X30 had water standing on the surface that was removed by the custodial staff. An undetermined amount went under the floor, which was unfinished.

On Saturday, a company that specializes in water damage set up their equipment and began removing the water under the wood floor. It is unknown how long it will take dry out the gym. If any of the floor will need to be replaced, it might push back the date the gym area can be used.

## Shotgun deer season

Taylor Prothman

Shotgun season is underway in Iowa. First season started on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and lasts until the 8<sup>th</sup>. About 70,000 hunters are expected to be out during the first season.

Second season will start December 11<sup>th</sup> and will end the 19<sup>th</sup>. During second season, 50,000 hunters are expected to be hunting.

An additional 28,000 tags will be issued for landowners, which they can use either season until the

tag is filled.

Iowa shotgun seasons are designed specifically for deer herd management purposes. There have been antlerless only tags issued for certain counties in Iowa to cut down on herd and reproduction numbers.

Hunting conditions are thought to be less appealing over the two seasons. The number of deer harvested are to be expected to be down 4 to 5 percent.

## Iowa bobcats are making a comeback

Karl Nicolaus

Bobcats were once a native species when the Midwest was beginning to be settled. Human activities greatly reduced the population. Bobcats were put on the endangered species list in 1977.

The population began to rise in the mid 198's and steadily grew. In 2001 the bobcat was taken off the endangered list and put on the threatened list.

According to the Iowa DNR, by 2003, sightings were common in southern Iowa. "It's a scary thought, bobcats living in Iowa," says

Seth Eischeid.

Bobcats were removed from the threatened list in 2003, but there still wasn't a hunting season. There were enough bobcats in southern and southwest Iowa to allow a quota of 250 bobcats to be harvested. The quota was filled within two weeks of the season opening.

Bobcats have been spotted in 78 of Iowa's 99 counties. There haven't been any reported sightings in Kossuth or surrounding counties.



Above: Michael McMahon goes up for a shot against Clarion-Goldfield.

Photo by Jim Gale

## Algona beats Garrigan for title

Mackenzie Siefken

The Algona Quiz Bowl team traveled to Spirit Lake this past Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, to compete in the Spirit Lake Tournament. There were over 25 different teams there from all over the state looking for a chance to win.

Algona had two teams competing at this tournament. The JV team consisted of Samuel Lipps, Jacob Kofoot, and Alex Harms. The Junior Varsity team went 1-3 on the day and is looking forward to next weekend's tournament to get another chance to collect more wins.

The Varsity team also had a great day in Spirit Lake, going 6-0 on the day.

They defeated inner town rivals, Bishop Garrigan, in the championship round. The team consisted of seniors Maddie Gisch, Thomas Christian, and Connor McGuire.

The teams competed against Spencer High School, Le Mars, Harley Melvin Sanborne, North Sentral Kossuth, North Iowa, and Bishop Garrigan.

Connor McGuire says, "It was good to come out with a win, and I really enjoyed Pizza Ranch after the tournament."

Next up, the team travels to South O'Brien for a tournament this Saturday, December 11th.

## Opening of new parking lot

Matt Olson

On Tuesday, November 23, 2010, the senior class had a mandatory homeroom meeting. They were told that as of Monday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, they would be allowed to use the new lot. Previously it had been closed because Larson Contracting was using it for their office and also for their vehicles.

The new lot will allow senior and junior students to park their vehicles in the lot so they are off the road.

Having the vehicles off the road makes everything better for the students and also for the AHS facility itself. It also looks a lot nicer with all vehicles parked in the lots. This new lot will also become more useful when the new middle school is open so parents have a place to pick up their students.

Having the new lot open makes our school-parking situation much better.

## A holiday concert!

Jackie Hutchison

The Algona High School Music Department presented their Holiday Concert on Monday, December 6, 2010, at 7:30 P.M. at Algona High School.

The directors are Jamie Kelly, for the Choral activities, Kurt Kissinger, the director of the band, Dianne Aboud, band assistant, and Kris Schonert, accompanist.

The groups who performed were the Flute Choir, Percussion Ensemble,

Mixed Chorus, Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Concert Band.

The Concert Band played: "A Cambridge Carol," "In the Bleak Midwinter," "Imani," and "Sing of Christmas."

The band and choir performed their own songs and then they did "Sing a Christmas" together.

Those in attendance were definitely put into the mood of the season.



## Distributing dictionaries

John Etler

The Dictionary Project is a non-profit organization that gives out dictionaries. The program gifts dictionaries to third grade students around the country and is a very large operation.

The program has been going since 2006. From the money they receive, 95 cents of every dollar goes towards purchasing dictionaries.

Third graders are chosen as the recipients because that is the age when you go from learning to read, to reading to learn.

The Morwens Kiwanis Clubs of Algona recently joined this program and is accepting all donations.

In 2009 there were 2,488,454 dictionaries given to students. In total, over 14 million students have received dictionaries.

This year, Bryant Elementary School and Seton will be give dictionaries by the community.

For more information you can check out their website at [www.dictionaryproject.org](http://www.dictionaryproject.org).

## Algonia High School Grapplin' to victory

Chris Arend

The Algonia/NSK Bulldogs wrestlers went on the road to Iowa Falls this past Thursday, December 2nd. This was the first meet of the year, and after last year's success with sending three wrestlers to State, spirits were high. The Iowa Falls-Alden Cadets fought hard, but in the end, it was the Bulldogs coming away with the victory.

The first match was at 119 pounds, where Jacob Adams was awarded a forfeit win, as IF-A was open in that weight class. Next on the mat was the 125 pound weight class where Kory Kuecker pinned his opponent in the first period with a fall time of 1:36. For the 130 pound weight class, Micah Lavrenz was pinned by his opponent in the first period with a fall time of 1:50. Following that, in the 135 pound weight class, Austin Long was also pinned in the first period with a fall time of 1:15.

The Bulldogs needed to muscle up, and first to do that was Brad Bjuström in the 140 pound class, pinning his opponent in the second period with a fall time of 3:44. Following that, Alex Wiseman made quick work out of his opponent, pinning him in the first period with a time of 1:35. In the 152 pound weight class, freshman Weston Shaw beat his opponent after a grueling match which ended in a score of 8-2.

In the 160 pound weight class, Garret Johnson stuffed his opponent in the second period with a fall time of 2:49. In the 171 pound weight class, making

## Edited by: Logan Thill and Taylor Prothman Droppin' tres

Cane Arrowood

The Algonia girls basketball team traveled to Charles City on Saturday, December 4. The girls played a hard fought game but came up short 71-53.

Laura TerHark led the Bulldogs with 21 points. Laura made 7 out of 13 three pointers. That put her over the 1,000 total points mark. When asked what 1,000 points means to her, Laura replied, "It's a good accomplishment." With that mark hit, that makes her the fifth person in school history. Laura also is second in the state of Iowa all time

three point leader. Laura has led the state in three pointers made the past three years.

Charles City won the turnover battle with 11 to AHS' 16. They also had three girls with over ten points. "We had them but we blew it," says MacKenzie Siefken.

On Tuesday, December 7th, the girls have a home game against Clarion. They then host Iowa Falls-Alden on Thursday, December 9th. The girls are hoping to bounce back with a win. GO LADY DOGS!



Laura TerHark receiving her award for 1000 points.

## Dallas Cowboy dies

Clarissa Laubenthal

Don Meredith died Sunday, December 5th, at a Santa Fe, New Mexico, hospital. A spokesman for the former player said he died of a brain hemorrhage. Don Meredith was a quarterback for the Cowboys, but what he is known for is how he and two other men made Monday Night football watchable.

In 1970, Don Meredith made his impact when he joined the broadcast team for the Monday night NFL broadcasts. Along Howard Cosell and Keith Jackson, they began broadcasting the

games like no other. Don Meredith provided the commentary that made football and non-football fans watch the games.

He first made his mark at Southern Methodist University on the football team. He got drafted and played for the Dallas Cowboys for eight years. He was selected to the pro bowl three times in his career. He was named Player of the Year in 1966. Don Meredith made millions laugh and enjoy the game of football.



## Bonus tags for deer

Jacob Foust

The bonus deer carcass tags went on sale August 21<sup>st</sup>. These tags are sold to try to control management and the herd population. The tags can only be used in state parks. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources tags and permits are sold at the rate of one per person per day.

Tags and permits for even numbered units went on sale beginning August 22

at noon. On the 23rd, sales went on for both even and odd numbered units. These tags can be purchased at the DNR licensing location.

Hunters are encouraged to check the rules and regulations about these bonus tags being sold. There are 12 state parks that you can use these in.

You have to own a hunting license before you can purchase these bonus tags.

## R5 Productions

Janelle Wittenberg

On Wednesday, December 1, Mike Donahue from R5 productions made a visit to AHS. He has spoken to over 1,000,000 students over the last decade and Algona High School has been fortunate to be a part of that twice.

Once the students gathered in the gym, Mike began sharing stories of students he has helped. Many of their stories are very similar to what students here have experienced.

Mike uses the analogy of shoes to bring the stories to life. He stated that each shoe represents a different story, which is why he has so many. Mike can lift up a shoe from his box and tell us everything about that person.

Some of his stories talk about

## Unstoppable

Destiny Smith

The thrilling movie *Unstoppable* stars Denzel Washington, Chris Pine, and Rosario Dawson.

This half-mile long freight train jumped out of its gear and started racing faster and faster down the track, almost slamming into a passenger train full of chil-

drugs. He openly admits to doing drugs when he was younger. His honesty helps students understand that there is hope and you can make a change with your life just like he did. "It was a good experience for the whole Algona High School," says Jenni Weaver, who enjoyed the day.

Most students were not very excited for this day because they didn't want to sit and listen to someone talk all day, but it surprised most of the students once they listened to everyone's story. Most of the students look at people in a better way now that some of them know what has gone on in their life and everything they have gone through.

dren on a school trip. Denzel Washington, a veteran engineer, and Chris Pine, a young new conductor, make the crazy decision to chase down the runaway train backwards in an attempt to hook on to it and slow it down before it derails, causing a toxic spill.

## A Christmas

### tradition

Tyler Mawdsley

The POW camp's world-renowned Nativity scene is set to open for the 66<sup>th</sup> time. This Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, the famous scene will be open to any visitors.

The Nativity features 60 half-sized statues of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, baby Jesus, angels, and numerous animals from the Biblical Christmas story. The Nativity scene was created by German architect Eduard Kaib, a prisoner of war during World War II, and was helped by five other POWs.

The six friends earned money working in Iowa fields to pay for the needed materials to make the statues.

Before his eventual

## The Giver

Jenni Weaver

The Giver is a book written by Lois Lowry. This book is set in the future. They do mention computers, but they still only communicate through two-way speaker systems. The main character is a young man named Jonas. The "giver" follows Jonas through the twelfth year of his life. Jonas did many things for the community. Not only did he put husbands and wives together, but he also helped out with transportation. The transportation they had were bicycles and cars. Airplanes

The movie was full of excitement and keeps you guessing the whole film. Will they catch the out of control train, or will there be a toxic

death, Kaib was quoted as saying that he "...never wanted to make a piece of art, [he] only wanted to bring the joy of Christmas to the camp."

The figures were repaired and restored last year.

The Nativity scene and the POW exhibit will be open on Sundays and Christmas from 12 p.m.- 9 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. It closes at 6 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>. at the Kossuth County Fairgrounds.

Admission for adults is \$3 and kids \$2. Everyone is encouraged to go and see the beautiful artwork this Christmas season. For more information go to [www.pwcamp.algona.org](http://www.pwcamp.algona.org).

did exist, but they used it for one reason, to transport food.

Jonas had lived the perfect life up until he turned twelve. He had never worried about anything. Everything was taken care for him. When he turns twelve, he gets to see horrible things and now has horrible memories. This is a wonderful book and is recommended.

spill destroying a town?

*Unstoppable* is rated PG13 and runs for 98 minutes.